FILING AN ANSWER/RESPONSE/OBJECTION TO A MOTION

The following instructions will guide you through the process of filing and docketing an answer or response in the Electronic Case Filing (ECF) system.

STEP 1 Select Bankruptcy from the Main Menu. Then click on the Answer/Response hypertext link from the Bankruptcy Events menu.



Figure 1a



Choose:

Figure 1b

Reference an Existing motion/application, or

STEP 2 The **Case Number** screen appears.



Figure 2

- Enter the case number, Click on **Next** to continue.
- If the computer prompts that you have entered an invalid case number, click on the **Back** hypertext link to re-enter the case number.

STEP 3 Select the type of **Answer/Response** screen appears.



Figure 3

- Screen prompts for selection of type of answer/response being filed.
- Click on the ▼ arrow to the right of the box to review the choices in the drop down box selection.
- Highlight the type of document being filed.
- Click on **Next** to continue, or **Clear** to repeat process.

STEP 4 The **Joint Filing** screen appears.



Figure 4

- This screen will only be used if another attorney is joining in this filing. No action is necessary.
- Click Next

STEP 5 The Select the Party screen appears.



Figure 5

Selection of a Party

- Click on the ▼arrow to right of box to scroll list.
- If the name of the party is listed, click to highlight it.
- Click on Next and proceed to Step 10.
- If the name is not listed, click on **Add/Create New Part**y.

STEP 6 The Search for a party screen appears.

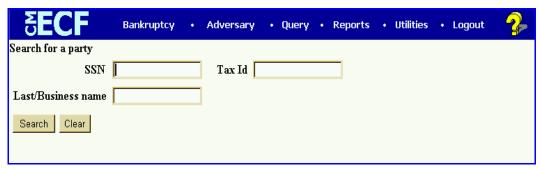


Figure 6a

- Enter a social security number (SSN), Tax Id number or one to four letters of the party's last name or business name (using upper and lower case characters). Click on **Search.**
- If the party is **not listed**, proceed to **Step 6**.
- If the party is **listed**, click on the party. Then click on **Select name from list**.



Figure 6b

• The Party's information will appear for verification and/or modification if necessary.

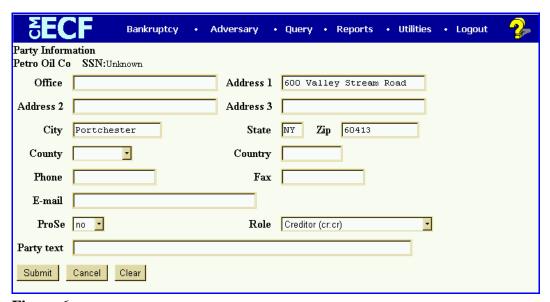


Figure 6c

- Remove address info for the party.
 - Click on the drop down box to select "the party's **Role**" for this filing, then click to highlight the appropriate role, (*i.e.*, *Debtor*, *Creditor*, *etc.*).
 - To add *Party Text*, such as *A Virginia Corporation* do so now in the box provided.
 - Click on **Submit** to continue, **Clear** to re-enter the party information, or **Cancel** to go back to the Select the party screen.

STEP 7 The "Please select the filer" screen will appear with your party filer highlighted.



Figure 7

Click on Next, to accept filer.

STEP 8 The Attorney/Party Association screen appears



Figure 8

• Click in the box [✓] to associate the attorney with the party added/selected.

[NOTE: You may receive this message if an attorney has not previously been associated with the party: "The following attorney/party associations do not exist for this case. Please check which associations should be created for this case:"]

Click on Next and proceed to STEP 10,

STEP 9 If the party filer's name is **not listed**, **Search for a Party** screen will appear, click on **Create new party**.

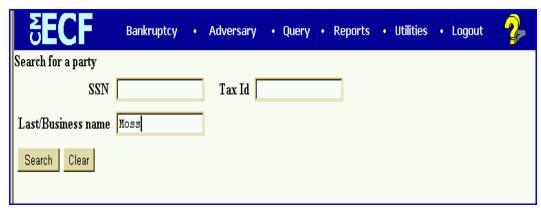


Figure 9a

• It is *very important to search* carefully and thoroughly before adding a new party so that duplicate records for the same person or entity are not added to the database. *See Search Hints*.

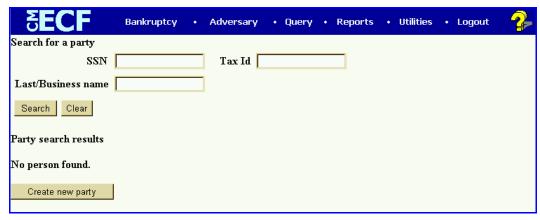


Figure 9b

Search Hints:

Enter one field of data for each search. Format Social Security Number or Tax ID with hyphens. Searching is case sensitive. (Smith, not smith) Include punctuation. (O'Brien, Garcia-Barrera) Try alternate search clues if your first search is not successful. Partial names can be entered. Wild cards (*) are not required at the end of search strings.

Wild cards may be used before or within search strings. (*son, Gr?y)

STEP 10 The **New Party Information** screen appears.

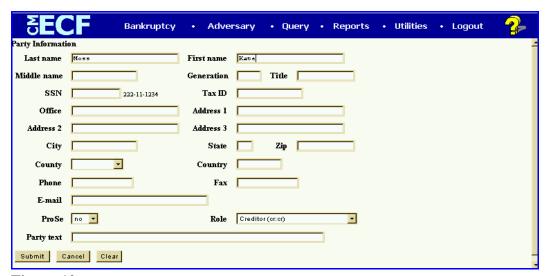


Figure 10

- Enter the new party information (name only) in the appropriate fields. Use the *Last Name* field for the last name or full business name, then press the tab key to advance to *First Name* field and enter the first name. Proceed to the *Role* field, and click on the ▼ arrow to the right of the box to select the new party's role, (i.e., Creditor (cr:cr).
- Click on **Submit** to continue, **Clear** to re-enter the new party information or **Cancel** to go back to the **Select the Party** screen.
- The **Select the Filer** screen will appear with the new party you entered highlighted.



Figure 11a

Click on **Next**

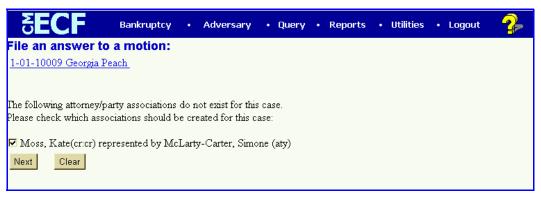


Figure 11b

• Click [✓] the box to associate the attorney with the party added/selected to the case. Click Next to continue.

[NOTE FOR ASSOCIATION: You may receive this message: "The following attorney/party associations do not exist for this case. Please check which associations should be created for this case:"]

STEP 12 Select the PDF File Document screen appears.

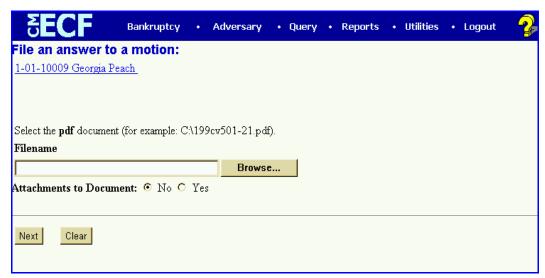


Figure 12a

Type the file name in blank box, being sure to include the . pdf suffix, or
 Click on Browse to navigate to the appropriate directory and file. (see
 Figure 10b)

If there are no attachments to the document:

Click on Next to continue and proceed to Step 11.

If there are attachments to the document, e.g. an exhibit, appendix, etc.:

• Click on the **Yes** radio button, then click on **Next**. The following screen appears:



Figure 12b

- Change **Files of type**: to Acrobat [*.pdf] or All Files.
- Change **Look in**: to the appropriate drive where the document is located.
- Click on the file name to be associated with this entry.
- Click on **Open**, and the file is uploaded to the following screen:



Figure 12c

• Click **Next** and the **Select one or more attachments** screen appears. (All exhibits must be attached at this screen)

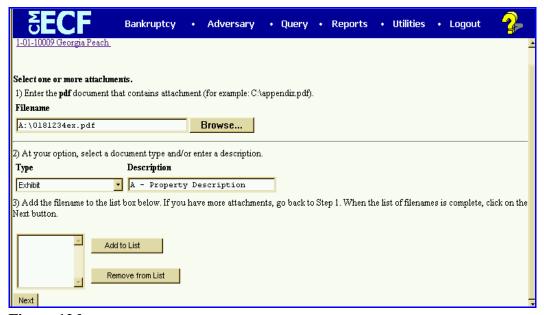


Figure 12d

- Select the filename of your attachment by using the **Browse.**
- Click on the ∇ down arrow next to the "**Type**" **drop down box** and select the type of attachment to be used for this motion.
- Click in the **Description box** and type in any additional description.
- Then click on Add to List.
- Continue to *Add Attachments* using the above steps as necessary.
- Once all attachments have been added, click on **Next.**

STEP 13 When filing an Answer/Response/Objection, Click inside the box "does this refer to an existing document in this case?"



Figure 13a

Click Next to continue.



Figure 13b

- The "select category of documents" screen appears. Highlight the type of category you wish to link your answer/response/objection to.
 - Click Next to continue

STEP 14 Document List



Figure 14

- Select document(s) you wish to answer by clicking in the box next to the date. If there is more than one possibility, click on the document number hyperlink to view the imaged application or motion.
- In preparation for enhancing the FINAL DOCKET TEXT, highlight the text and use the Edit button from the browser menu, select Copy to place on Windows clipboard until you are ready to paste it into the final docket text or you may choose to type in the additional text in that free text box Click on Next to continue.

STEP 15 Docket Text: Modify as Appropriate

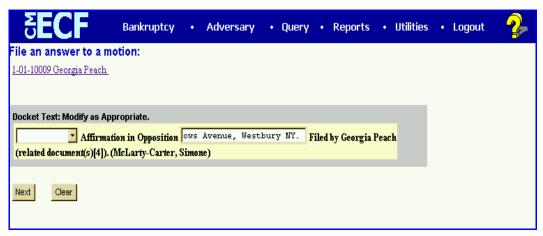


Figure 15

To add a prefix to docket text:

• Click on the ▼down arrow next to first blank box to select the correct modifier.

To add additional text:

- Click in second blank box.
- Type in any additional description of notice.
- At this time you may add the text which you copied to the clipboard, right click your mouse inside this free text box and the text will appear.
- Click on **Next.**

Step 16 The Final Docket Text screen appears

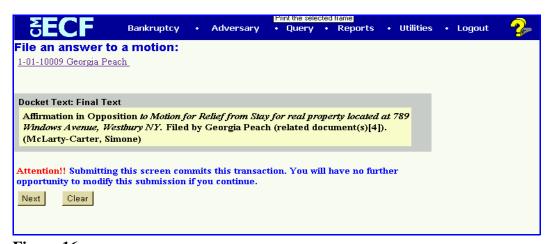


Figure 16

- Verify docket entry as it appears on screen.
 - If correct, click on **Next** to submit filing to court.
 - If docket entry is incorrect, press **Back** to make corrections, or start over by clicking on **Bankruptcy** on the Main Menu.

STEP 17 The **Notice of Electronic Filing** screen appears.



Figure 17

Once entry is submitted after final approval, the Notice of Electronic Filing screen is displayed. Screen gives confirmation that the system has received the entry and is now an official court document.

Notice provides:

- Date and time transaction was received by court
- Number assigned to document

Scroll down to view entire receipt

Print receipt

- Click on **File** at top of Netscape screen and select **Print Frame**, or
- Click on the **Printer Icon** at the top of the page.

[Note: It is highly recommended that copies of receipts be maintained for your records.]

Note: You will receive the following screen if you attempt to access the docket or document through the links provided on the Notice of Electronic Filing screen.

